

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 989
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Old Union Church of Christ on the occasion of its 170th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize and pay tribute to those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 170-year history, Old Union Church of Christ has been one such institution, proudly serving Sumner County, Tennessee, by providing respite, refuge, and direction for many generations of its members, and serving as a link to join the oft-remembered past with the much-anticipated future; and

WHEREAS, believed to be the first Church of Christ in Sumner County, Old Union Church of Christ was organized at Sylvan's Academy on March 30, 1834, and the congregation embarked upon its spiritual journey with only nine members; and

WHEREAS, as the membership of Old Union Church of Christ quickly grew, John Gillespie, W.H. Bush, and Peter Hubbard were appointed as elders and John Bush and G.B. Harris were appointed as deacons; and

WHEREAS, the congregation moved its worship venue to the Daniel Mentlo Farm, and desiring to increase their spiritual knowledge, the members created twelve Bible classes on September 3, 1843; and

WHEREAS, the construction on the first Church building at Desha's Creek was completed in 1847; this location served the needs of the worshipers until 1856 when the building was relocated to the site which continues to serve as the location of the Church; and

WHEREAS, construction on a new building began in 1894 and over six hundred people attended the first services held in this facility on the fourth Sunday in April 1894; the members of Old Union Church of Christ continue to faithfully worship in this same building; and

WHEREAS, the inspirational leadership of Old Union Church of Christ has greatly contributed to the success of the Church and includes such outstanding preachers as David Lipscomb, E.A. Elam, G.C. Brewer, H. Leo Boles, Granville Lipscomb, E.G. Sewell, C.M. Pullias, James A. Allen, J. Harding Shoulders, Clifford Dobbs, Floyd Jackson, Howard Tucker, Buddy Chadfield, Curt Greer, Roy Carroll, Harold Nelson Roney, Terry Graham, James Harwell, Ralph Kidd, Mike McDonald, John Hayes, Dale Flowers, Burford Holt, Robert Crabtree, Myron Key, James Harris, J.B. Gaither, Jim Bill McInteer, and Jerry Burchett; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the Church have guided the congregation through many changes, including the addition of Sunday School rooms and a Baptistry in 1952, the purchase of land in 1988, and numerous other renovations to the Church building; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 170-year history, the congregation has sought to follow God's will, providing comfort and guidance to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Old Union Church of Christ continues to grow in faith and commitment and to render tireless and faithful service to the Lord; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with that great cloud of witnesses, both living and dead, who constitute that community of faith known as Old Union Church of Christ, in remembering and honoring 170 years of dedicated and fruitful work in the vineyards of the Lord.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.